**Spectrum Policy**

2546. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when India is going to launch spectrum policy;

(b) whether any discussions by the Wireless Planning Commission with operators in this connection have been held; and

(c) the feedback that Wireless Planning Commission has got from the operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) has given its recommendations on spectrum related issues. The Committee, constituted to examine these recommendations, has held discussions with various stakeholders, including operators. The report of the Committee is under consideration by the Government. The feedback from operators dwells on requirements of spectrum allocation for new emerging technologies as well as for growth of existing services, and the methodology for such allocations.

**Shortage of staff quarters**

2547. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of quarters for MTNL staff in Cuddapah;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to construct more staff quarters for which land is already available at Almaspet area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): Sir, staff quarter of MTNL are located only in Delhi and Mumbai.

There is shortage of staff quarters in Cuddapah which comes under the jurisdiction of BSNL.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Layout for construction of 1 number of Type-VI, 2 number of Type-V and 4 number of Type-IV quarters at Cuddapah in the land at Almaspet has been prepared and sent to circle office for approval.

**Release of commemorative stamps**

2548. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested for release of a commemorative stamp in the memory of Sri Siddanagowda Sannaramanagowda Patil who is the founder President of the country's first ever Agricultural Cooperative Society India; and

(b) by when the proposed commemorative stamp is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was examined in the light of guidelines laid down by the Philatelic Advisary Comiittee in order to ensure the philatelic value of the stamps issued, and was found to be not in consonance with the stamp issue guidelines, for the present. It is however, mentioned that a commemorative postage stamp on completion of 100 years of the Cooperative Movement in India has been released on 08.05.2005 at a function organized by the Karnataka State Government a Gadag, Karnataka.

**GSM service by BSNL**

2549. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GSM telephone subscriber base is fast increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the GSM lines currently in operation and anticipated increase during the next three years, both in respect of private players and PSUs;